

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DEPT PASS DHEW/OIH FOR FISCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, PINT, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR HEALTH COOPERATION - EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
FOR THE INHABITANTS OF LITTLE DIOMEDE ISLAND

REFS: (A) STATE 177538, (B) MOSCOW 11076,

1. SCICOUNS MET WITH MALYSHEV, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AUGUST 17 TO REITERATE US INTEREST IN FACILITATING EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION FOR THE INHABITANTS OF LITTLE DIOMEDE ISLAND. SCICOUNS REVIEWED NOTE TRANSMITTED REFTEL A WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO MFA JULY 29 URGING A QUICK AND FAVORABLE SOVIET RESPONSE WHICH MIGHT THEN BE REGISTERED AS A SOLID HUMANITARIAN COOPERATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE NEXT HEALTH JCM SCHEDULED IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 20. SCICOUNS ALSO STRONGLY UNDERLINED THE EXTENSIVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO SOVIET MARITIME PERSONNEL BY THE ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER OVER THE PAST YEARS. MALYSHEV GAVE A SYMPATHETIC HEARING TO THE DEMARCHE AND PROMISED TO DO WHAT HE COULD. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT THE PROPOSAL INVOLVES A BORDER AREA WHICH FELL WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE MFA. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY CONTACTED THE MFA TO INQUIRE AS TO THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSAL.

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2. AT SOCIAL EVENT LATER THAT DAY SCICOUNS RAISED PROPOSAL IN SAME VEIN WITH FEDOSEYEV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, USA DIVISION, MFA. FEDOSEYEV STATED HE WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE MATTER AND THAT IT WAS UNDER ACTIVE REVIEW BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY DISCUSS IT WITH MOH DEPUTY DIRECTOR VENEDIKTOV. FEDOSEYEV READILY ASSENTED

TO THE VIEW THAT IF COOPERATION COULD BE ACHIEVED THIS WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT PLUS TO THE HEALTH BILATERAL AND ENHANCE ITS HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS. HE REQUESTED A PERSONAL LETTER FROM SCICOUNS RESTATING THE POINTS MADE ORALLY WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN PURSUING THIS MATTER WITHIN HIS GOVERNMENT. LETTER IS BEING FORWARDED TO FEDOSEYEV AUGUST 20. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO OES, EUR/SOV AND DHEW - FISCHER.

3. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY FEELS STRONGLY THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING ON THIS HUMANITARIAN MATTER ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE THE US HAS PROVIDED TO SOVIET MARITIME PERSONNEL OVER THE YEARS. IF WE DO NOT HAVE A SATISFACTORY SOVIET RESPONSE BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT HEALTH JCM, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD EXPRESS OUR DISPLEASURE STRONGLY TO THE SOVIETS AND TO THE MEDIA. TOON

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Message Attributes

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